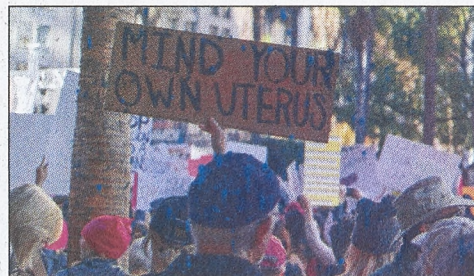




**VALLEY LIFE: BOOK LAUNCH**  
THIS VALLEY COLLEGE MUSIC PROFESSOR HAS HAD A LONG CAREER.

# the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College



**OPINION: ABORTION**  
ABORTION LAWS HAVE BEEN LIMITING A WOMAN'S CONTROL OF HER BODY.

VOLUME 89, ISSUE 7

VALLEY STAR MAY 21, 2019

WWW.THEVALLEYSTARNEWS.COM

## More voters, tighter race

This spring's ASU election had a stronger showing than in previous years.

GABRIEL ARIZON  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College students recently voted for the new ASU board amid a more competitive race and stronger voter participation than in years past.

Out of the 16,858 eligible voters, 567 valid votes were cast in the election, which accounts for 3.36 percent of the total number of voters. In last year's school election, 325 votes were counted, which was less than 2 percent of the total number of voters, and all the candidates ran unopposed.

The current ASU commissioner of publicity, Elijah Rodriguez, won his bid for president with 38 percent of the vote against three other candidates. Commissioner of political and external affairs, Ani Apikyan, ran and won her bid for vice president with 44 percent of the votes, beating two other candidates. Evelyn Soriano, commissioner of social media, won the position of health and safety concerns, also beating two candidates by winning 44 percent of the votes.

Both Angelica Simityan and Dania Castillo ran unopposed for treasurer and commissioner of campus and envi-

ronmental affairs, respectively. Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Jose Romo ran for the position of student life against incumbent Maricela Garcia, losing to her by getting 44 percent of the votes. According to Dean of Student Life Elizabeth Negrete, Romo will not be an ASU member next semester unless he runs again.

The tightest race of the election was for commissioner of fine arts, between incumbent Angela Darpinian and Jy Prishkulnik. By a difference of four votes, Darpinian kept her position.

"Everyone was so hyped and anticipated but I thought 'Oh well, if it doesn't happen I'm fine with that, and if I do win-cool,' Darpinian said. "Then I saw the number of votes when my winning was announced and I thought, '... The extras were Armenians, haha.'"

Aside from the ASU positions, students voted to approve (83 percent) the referendum that will impose a \$13 fee for an unlimited Los Angeles Metro rail and bus pass. With the exception of Pierce College — which did not include the referendum on its ballot — every college in the L.A. Community College District voted in support of it, according to a document



**CIGARETTES-** A large pile of cigarette butts were found around campus by the Eco Advocates Club.

Read 'Valley joins the Truth Initiative' on pg. 3 for the full story.

provided by Negrete. In terms of percentage, Southwest College had the highest amount of support at 95 percent, as opposed to the 70 percent in Harbor College; although, Southwest had the lowest total number of votes cast out of all the schools at 122 votes.

Though Valley students voted in support of the referendum, according to Negrete, it does not necessarily mean the school will have the program to begin with. In collaboration with LA Metro, the district will

have a selection process that will decide which of the colleges will have the program. Whichever colleges are selected, the program will take effect in the upcoming winter semester for three years.

"I think that, not to say it was unclear, but I guess a little bit of uncertainty because, at first, we were under the impression that it was gonna be any school that votes to have it," Negrete said.

The elected ASU board will be sworn in May 21, and their term begins July 1.

### THE FACTS

According to a document provided by Dean Elizabeth Negrete, a total of 3,480 students in the Los Angeles Community College District voted in support of the Metro pass referendum.

### IMPORTANT INFO

The Academic Resource Center, Student Life Office, library and Phi Theta Kappa are offering a series of "Crunch Time" events to help students prepare for finals. Check lavc.edu for more details.

### ON CAMPUS

#### May 21

Students in the Small Combos class will perform a variety of jazz, rock and popular music at 1:30 p.m. in Music Instrumental Room 112.

#### May 22

The Art Gallery is holding an artist reception for its annual student exhibition, "LAUNCH19," at 6 p.m.

#### May 23

A demonstration of the new DJ Workshop class, directed by DJ Irene, will be held in the Music Building at 7 p.m.

These features and more can be found in full @ [www.thevalleystarnews.com](http://www.thevalleystarnews.com)

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews

## Spring Final Schedule

DAY CLASSES								
Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY JUNE 3			TUESDAY MAY 28				
Time of Exam	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm		
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 – 7:55 MW	9:40 – 10:50 MTWTh	1:00 – 2:10 MTWTh	6:30 – 7:55 TTh	9:40 – 11:05 TTh	1:00 – 2:25 TTh		
	6:45 – 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 – 11:05 MW	1:00 – 2:25 MW		9:40 – 10:55 TThF	1:00 – 2:15 TThF		
		9:40 – 10:55 MWF	1:00 – 2:15 MWTh		9:40 – 12:10 TTh	1:00 – 3:30 TTh		
		9:40 – 12:10 MW	1:00 – 3:30 MW					
Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY MAY 29			THURSDAY MAY 30				
Time of Exam	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm		
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 – 9:25 MTWTh	11:20 – 12:30 MTWTh	2:20 – 3:30 MTWTh	8:00 – 9:25 TTh	11:20 – 12:45 TTh	1:45 – 3:10 TTh		
	8:00 – 9:25 MW	11:20 – 12:45 MW	2:40 – 4:05 MW	8:00 – 9:15 TThF	11:20 – 12:35 TThF	1:45 – 3:00 TThF		
	8:00 – 9:15 MWF	11:20 – 12:35 MWF		8:00 – 10:30 TTh	11:20 – 1:50 TTh			
	8:00 – 10:30 MW	11:20 – 1:50 MW						
EVENING CLASSES								
CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M Jun 3	4 – 6pm	M	M Jun 3	4:30 – 6:30pm	M	M Jun 3	7 – 9pm
T	T May 28	4 – 6pm	T	T May 28	4:30 – 6:30pm	T	T May 28	7 – 9pm
W	W May 29	4 – 6pm	W	W May 29	4:30 – 6:30pm	W	W May 29	7 – 9pm
Th	Th May 30	4 – 6pm	Th	Th May 30	4:30 – 6:30pm	Th	Th May 30	7 – 9pm
MW	M June 3	4 – 6pm	MW	W May 29	4:30 – 6:30pm	MW	M Jun 3	7 – 9pm
TTh	T May 28	4 – 6pm	TTh	Th May 30	4:30 – 6:30pm	TTh	T May 28	7 – 9pm
In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.								

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

## New ID required for citizens

MEG TAYLOR  
NEWS EDITOR

As of next year, Americans will need a new form of identification to air travel throughout the United States.

The REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the federal government 'set standards for the issuance of sources of identification.'

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, "The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards."

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security will require driver license or identification cards to be REAL ID compliant if citizens wish to use them as identification to board a domestic flight or enter military bases and most federal facilities; it is also required when purchasing a firearm and/or ammunition.

Citizens do not need a REAL ID when applying for or receiving federal benefits, entering a post office or other federal facilities that do not require identification, visiting a hospital or receiving life-saving services, or to ride Amtrak or other public ground transportation. In terms of flying, a passport can be used in place of the REAL ID. The application for one is similar to that of the current drivers license requirements: must provide proof of identity, proof of social security number and proof of California residency.

"Real IDs carry the same information as your old driver's license, along with a variety of safeguards to make them more difficult to counterfeit. To receive one, however, you must meet a new federal standard proving you are who you say you are and you live where you say you do," said a 2018 L.A. Times article.

The application can be filled out ahead of time by visiting [eDLapp.dmv.ca.gov](http://eDLapp.dmv.ca.gov). Appointments are required to obtain a REAL ID; people cannot renew their license by mail and simply "upgrade" to the new license. However, once you have a REAL ID card, you may be eligible to renew by mail or online in the future.

With the DMV notoriously being known for long lines and wait times, even with an appointment, many are annoyed that they are now burdened with an extra trip. Another controversy circling around involves the motives behind the government implementing this law almost 15 years after it was passed.

"I think they are using 9/11 as an excuse," said Valley College student Isaac Arredondo. "I think that the political climate that we're in at the moment is the reason they are using this as a way to really verify people are who they say they are. But it's just more of keeping people who they want in and having the ones who want to come in, keep them out."



# NEWS

## Congress aims to fix economic disadvantage

Underserved college students get the help they need from a retooling of the Higher Education Act, which makes accessing funds more streamlined.

KIMBERLY LINARES  
STAFF WRITER

With neutral negotiations underway in the Senate, Congress appears poised in rewriting the Higher Education Act after a decade long of not doing so.

The law encompasses student loans, accreditation and completion initiatives, but it's overall intent is to increase college access to underserved students. Such updates would bring about changes in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that include a simplified version of the application, while also making sure that the Pell Grants distributed to low-income students is consistent with the rising cost of college and lastly increasing the federal oversight for higher education institutions. The reason as to why lawmakers are so determined in updating the educational law is because of the belief that college, the affordability and access to it is in need

of some crucial adjustments.

**"Rather than diminishing the value of a college degree, we should recognize that all students should have access to the ... benefits that come with a quality higher education."**

- Bobby Scott

The U.S. House of Representatives demonstrate their concerns towards the inevitable renewal of the Higher Education Act (H.E.A.) through the Education and Labor Report that was recently published. This report tackles higher education problems towards struggling college students. This committee

is led by Representative Bobby Scott, a Democrat from Virginia, which begins the report with "Arguing that though higher education has its issues, a college degree still packs a significant value."

The report titled, "Don't Stop Believin' (in the value of a college degree)" provides detailed information on the rising cost of college education, the proven benefits of college, the importance of receiving quality education and confronting racial and economic inequity among college students. It also makes presence of the principles for reauthorizing the H.E.A. which include expanding access and improving affordability for higher education.

"Rather than diminishing the value of a college degree, we should recognize that all students should have access to the substantial, financial and social benefits that come with a quality higher education," said Scott in an emailed statement to the Atlantic.

Today's college population

is diverse in the sense that you will find first generation college students, working adults and part-time students looking for educational attainment despite hardships.

**"I am a full-time student and pay for my schooling with the help of financial aid and ... I work part-time to help cover my basic needs."**

- Karen Velasco

Nearly half of all first-generation college students in the United States attend a community college, according to a February 2018 study from the Department of Education's National Center for Education Studies. As of 2017, 44 percent of Hispanic undergraduates were

enrolled at a community college, while 35 percent of black students and 21 percent of whites made part of the population.

The numbers, the report says, speak for themselves. "Two out of three jobs are filled by individuals who have at least some college education," it reads.

From 2015 to 2019, the average published tuition and fees for a full-time student at public two-year institutions nationally was \$3,660, compared with \$10,230 at public four-year colleges. The average net price, however, was \$400, meaning that grants and tax benefits covered a portion of other expenses for the average full-time community college student — less than they had from 2009 to 2015, according to College Board.

"I am a full-time student and pay for my schooling with the help of financial aid and whatever is not covered I work part-time to help cover my basic needs," says Karen Velasco, a third-year student at Valley College.

Students enroll at community colleges for a variety of rea-

sons. One important advantage of community colleges over four year institutions is cost. Given that community colleges support such a diverse community they provide flexible schedules that enable students to continue working while obtaining a degree or certificate. Not to mention that most community colleges are accessible.

"My families support encourages me to do better and work harder. They try to help and support me in the best way possible by giving me positive feedback and acknowledging that I can achieve my educational goals," says Daisy Cabrera, a second-year student at Valley.

The ending of this report states that reauthorization of the H.E.A. can strengthen the postsecondary system, ensuring multiple pathways for students to obtain post secondary degrees so that the U.S. can continue to produce a well-educated workforce ready for the challenges of a modern global economy.

## Senate abortion law sets tone for fight to come

A recent Alabama abortion law has set a new bar for the debate on Roe v. Wade.

SOLOMON SMITH  
MANAGING EDITOR

A highly contested Alabama Senate bill passed into law effectively outlawing abortion in the state of Alabama and possibly setting a new standard for state abortion laws.

The majority Republican Senate passed the bill 25-6 on May 14. Gov. Kay Ivey admitted that the law is extreme and may not stand legal scrutiny while touting the bill as a triumph on the official Alabama governors webpage.

"Today, I signed into law the Alabama Human Life Protection Act," read Ivey's statement. "To the bill's many supporters, this legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabamians' deeply held belief that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God."

The statute also points to a possible fight in the courts stating: "at least for the short term,

this bill may similarly be unenforceable." The statement comes a day before the state executed convicted multiple-murderer,

**"It's an extreme law, and they want to challenge Roe vs Wade."**

- Pat Robertson

Michael Brandon Samra, which many detractors point to as logically inconsistent.

The law removes abortion as an option for women in the state save for pregnancies that cause an immediate health risks to the mother, while eschewing the usual caveats of rape and incest.

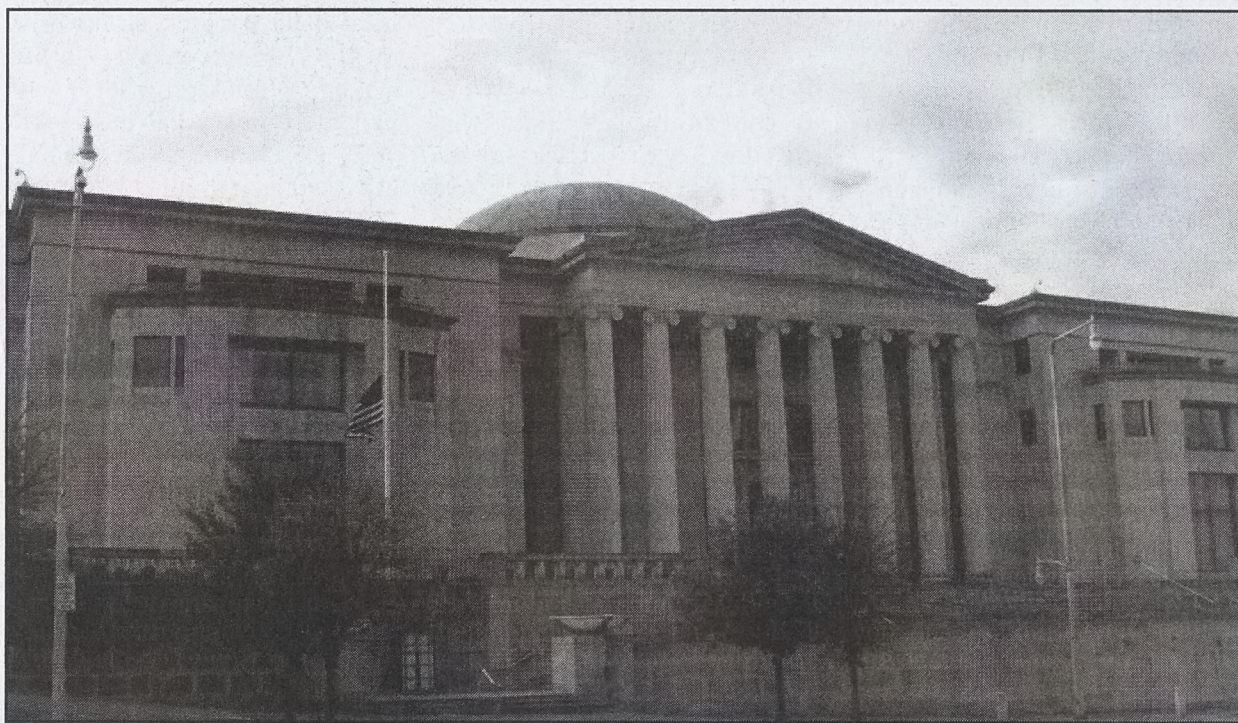
Women were the impetus for the bill in the Alabama House of Representatives, led by Representative Terry Collins (R). A hand-written request for an amendment making an exception for rape and incest

was sent to the governor's office but ignored. One Alabama Senator, Vivian Davis Figures (D), asked her male counterparts about their experience with being raped or having to carry an unwanted pregnancy on the senate floor.

"And to take that choice away from that person, who had such a traumatic act committed against the," said Figures, "to be left with the residue of that person, if you will, to have to bring that child into this world and be reminded of that every single day...some people can do that, but some people can't."

The bill is a part of a series of laws challenging abortion rights throughout the south. States have always had some say over when, and under what, conditions a woman may have an abortion, but the recent rash of strict laws pushes the limits.

According to an article in USA Today, six states already have a six week abortion ban, all in the South.



WIKIMEDIA | ALTAIRISFAR

COURTHOUSE- The Alabama Senate passed a controversial abortion bill with harsh penalties.

A Supreme Court with a conservative majority has caused some to worry that laws like this may help chip away at the provisions of Roe v. Wade, the controversial case that made abortion legal in the U.S. in 1973. The restrictions are not the only part of the Alabama law that many find upsetting. The ban also carries an unusually harsh punishment of up to 99 years in prison for the person who performs the

abortion, although it bears no penalty for the mother.

The Missouri Legislature on May 17 passed HB126, the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act, its own ban of abortion making the procedure illegal after eight weeks. It is now awaiting Republican Gov. Mike Parson's signature; he must sign the bill by July 14. The concern is that these tough laws will drive the national feeling toward the left.

Pat Robertson, a famous televangelist, noted this in an interview on Fox News.

"It's an extreme law, and they want to challenge Roe vs. Wade," said Robertson, "but my humble view is that this is not the case we want to bring to the Supreme Court because I think this one will lose."

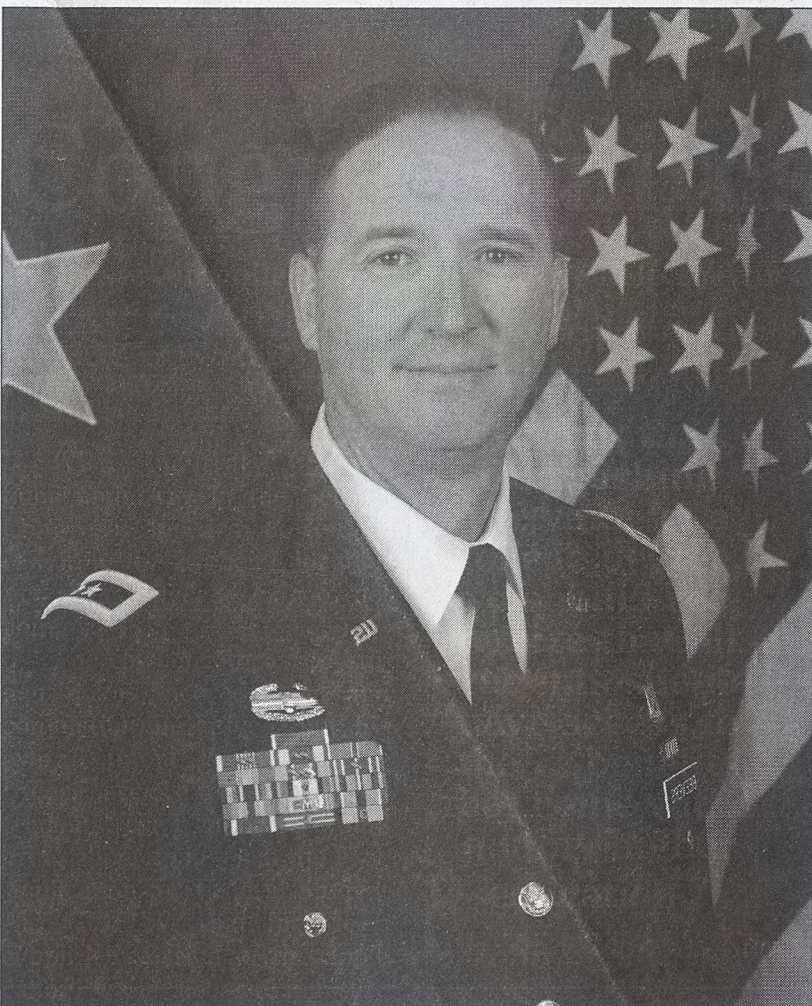


PHOTO COURTESY OF | CA.GOV  
MILITARY- Matthew Beevers defended transgender soldiers.

## National Guard stonewalls transgender ban

In a bold move, the state Guard defends its transgender servicemen, despite the president's mandate.

LEE VILLANUEVA  
STAFF WRITER

The California National Guard has chosen to reject President Donald Trump's ban of transgender people serving in the military and inspires other states to do the same.

The Trump administration rolled out a mandate that reversed protections set by former President Barack Obama's administration which allowed transgender persons to openly serve in the military.

In 2017, President Trump tweeted, "We can not be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail."

A new policy was created by former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, which allowed for 1,000 trans-identifying troops to remain while prohibiting new enlistees diagnosed with gender dysphoria or who have had gender reassignment surgery.

The Supreme Court ruled

in January 2019 that the Trump Administration could begin enforcing the policy. According to the Defense Department, more than 15,000 transgender service members will be allowed to continue serving in the armed forces as long as they receive a diagnosis of gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria, according to the American Psychiatric Association, involves a conflict between a person's physical or assigned gender and the gender with which he/she/they identify. The Pentagon's controversial policy will require that everyone must serve as their biological sex.

"Whether or not an individual under him is transgender will not dictate their capability to performing their duty," said Major General Matthew Beevers to the Hill. "Every transgender soldier or airmen currently serving will remain in our ranks."

The president announced via Twitter in July 2017 that he would restrict the military service of transgender people who live with gender dysphoria. Trump cited the cost of medical

care as a factor for the trans-ban. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 vote to lift injunctions "against transgender persons" placed early on in Trump's presidency.

**"As long as you fight, we don't care what gender you identify as, nobody's going to kick you out."**

- Matthew Beevers

As reported by Morgan Brinlee of Bustle.com, in 2014 an estimated 2,450 out of 13 million serving in the U.S. military claimed gender dysphoria. In the reserves, another 1,510 out of 800,000 were also trans according to The Pew Research Center. They also report that the cost of transition-related treatment would range from \$2.4 to \$8.4 million, a small fraction of the annual military budget; Pew reports the military healthcare

budget at more than \$43 billion.

Key concerns about the Obama-era policy were whether transgender troops had medical or other issues that altered their ability to deploy.

Nevada's National Guard, the states Washington, Oregon and New Mexico will now join California in defiance of Trump's ban, according to an article by Samantha Allen in The Daily Beast. All fifty states and four U.S. Territories have a gubernatorial controlled National Guard which allows for the challenge to the Trump Administration's ban.

The California National Guard will continue to ignore Trump's ban because they answer to state Governors and are able to look past federal policies. Beevers has stated his intent to continue ignoring this policy and will continue to explore options for transgender individuals to serve the California National Guard.

"As long as you fight, we don't care what gender you identify as, nobody's going to kick you out," said Beevers to The Advocate.



## English professor launches first book

Kimberly Robeson had a book launch event in the campus library to promote her recently published novel, "The Greek Persuasion."

GABRIEL ARIZON  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College held its very first book signing event this past Thursday, and one of its own English professors was the main attraction.

Assistant professor and LGBTQ Club co-advisor Kimberly Robeson, alongside supportive family members and faculty, gathered in the campus library on May 16 in front of dozens of students to talk about and promote her recently published novel, "The Greek Persuasion." The novel centers around a Greek-American professor named Thair who has spent most of her life searching for her soulmate. The book takes a lot of inspiration from Robeson's Greek-American heritage and from Plato's "The Symposium," which tells the story of Zeus splitting humans into two and how people have been trying to find their other half ever since.

When asked by a reporter in a previous interview how similar she was to her protagonist, Robeson said, "Thair is open and strong; she's bolder and more introspective than I am. Like me, she is an English professor, so I put her in settings that I could write about in a genuine way. Thair's love of teaching and her overall philosophy are, indeed, a part of me."

Robeson finished her first draft of the novel in 2011, after

nine months of work. However, she continued to encounter snags along the way. At first, her novel was considered too long for the industry standard (she was 40,000 words over the maximum). She then had a female agent who was concerned about a same-sex scene and was told to "just get rid of the gay stuff" to make it more commercial. Robeson decided to find a reputable publisher that would accept her work, eventually finding one and getting her novel published on April 30, 2019.

"It was really weird to wake up and go, 'oh my god, my book is really out there,'" Robeson said. "When you have a dream, you have to take those risks. You have to be strong and persevere."

The event started out with a performance by singer and songwriter Vassilia, who donated her time to the event, and Robeson was introduced to the crowd by Greek-American actor Adoni Maropis ("24"). Even one of her students, Vincent Fanelli, wrote a song about her book, which he performed during the event.

"I had the idea for the chords and melody a week or two ago, and I finished the lyrics this week," he said. "I think [the song] is basically done. I do want to do a quick recording and maybe see if she can use it somehow if she wants."

Towards the end of the event, Robeson signed copies of

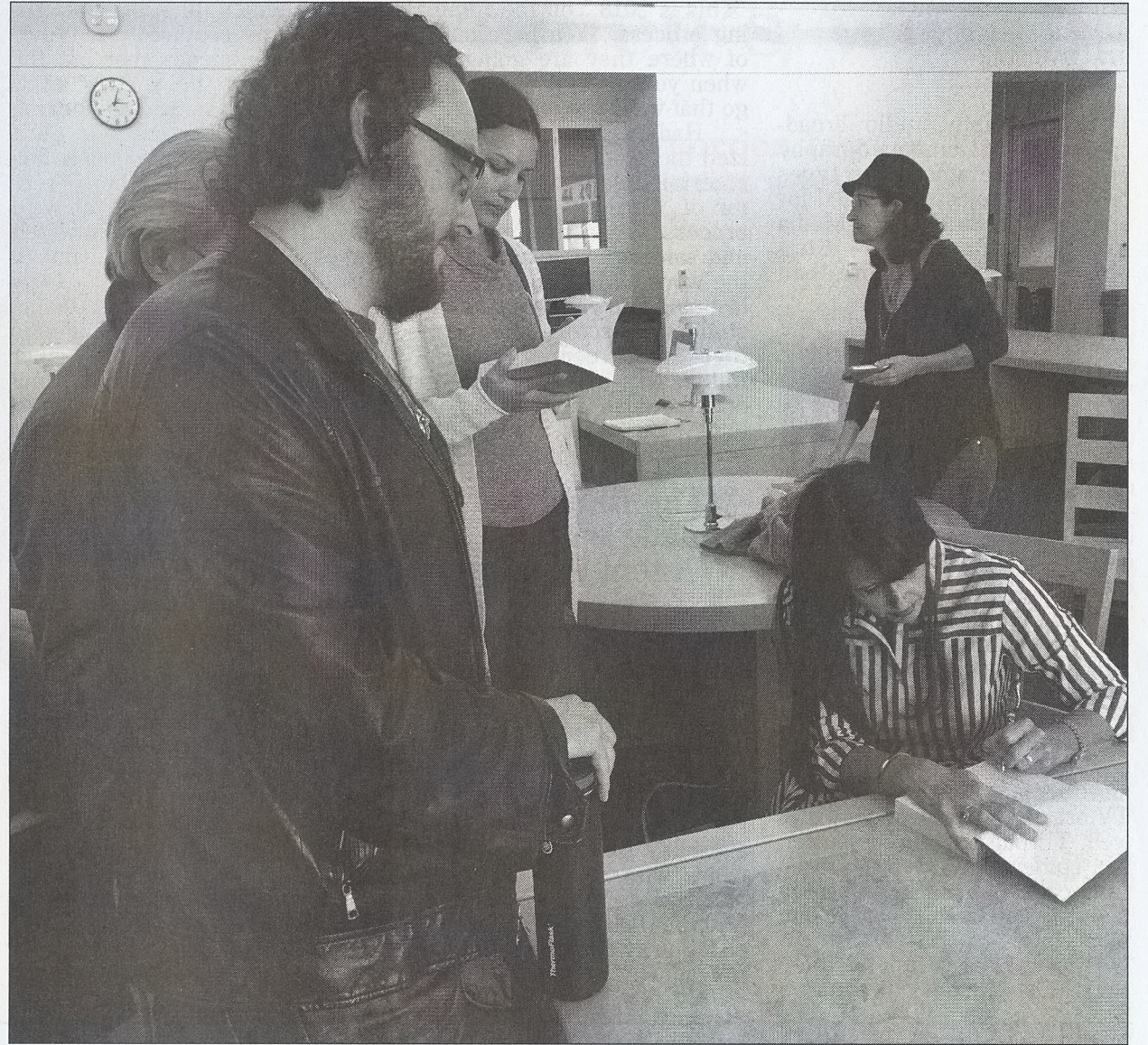
her book for those who attended. The novel itself was available for purchase at the library for \$20, which included a bookmark and a raffle ticket.

"I was part of the LGBTQ Club and ... I saw the flyer and wanted to go support her," Valley student Tee Jae Vaido said. "I'm happy to know that she really put her heart and genuine feeling into this. I'm glad to see this out now."

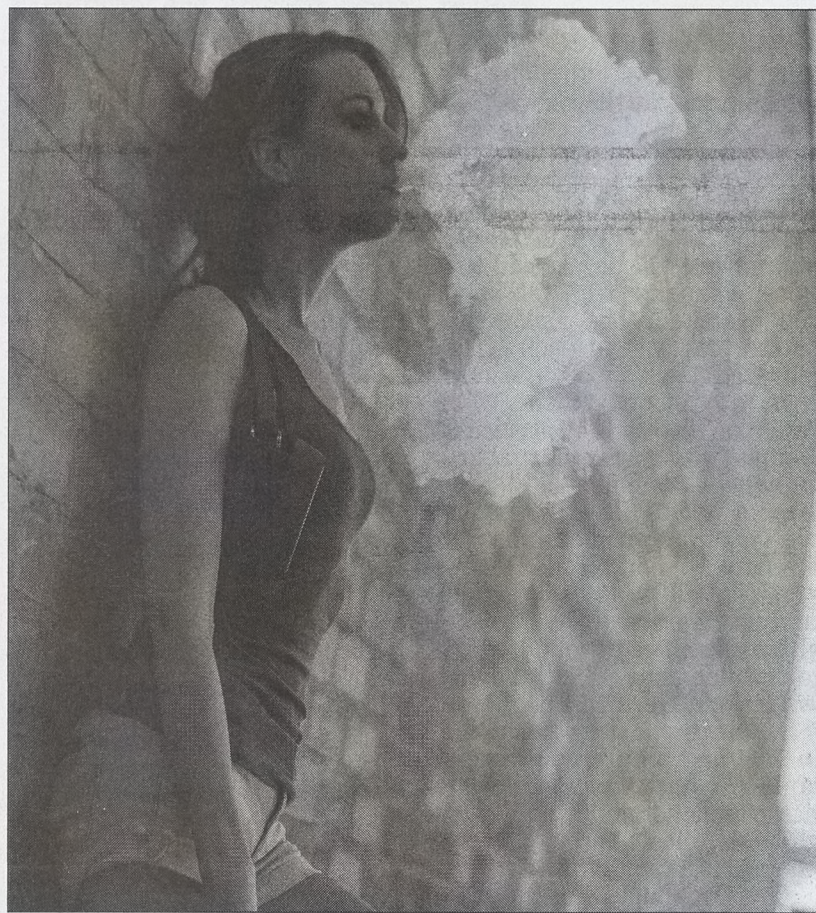
Robeson partnered with the library to host the signing and the LAVC Foundation to have all the proceeds of her book donated towards a writing scholarship.

"I love my students, and so I thought if I could put some money in the bank for them to get them excited about writing and give them some scholarship money," she said. "It was a natural progression for me to do. I was happy to donate my time and the books."

Robeson is in her fourth year at Valley after coming from Pasadena City College. She's taught English for 27 years in the United States, Greece and Peru, and has a master's degree in comparative literature. She has a rough draft for her second novel, "Sixty Days in Santorini," about a mother and a daughter going on adventures, that she wrote alongside "The Greek Persuasion," which she will continue to work on next year.



SIGNING- Assistant Professor Kimberly Robeson signing copies of her book, "The Greek Persuasion."



VAPING- All forms of smoking will be banned on campus.

## Truth Initiative cuts through smoke

Smoking on campus, including vaping and marijuana use, will soon be a thing of the past.

MEG TAYLOR  
NEWS EDITOR

Smoking of all kinds will soon be banned on Valley College's campus as the result of a \$20,000 grant from the Truth Initiative.

Valley was awarded the grant in Nov. 2018 from the Truth Initiative organization, a national non-profit public health organization dedicated to eliminating smoking, especially for those in the highest group of people who begin smoking every year: 18-26 year old, college-aged youth.

According to the Truth Initiative, "5.6 million children alive today will die prematurely of tobacco-related illness ... Ninety-nine percent of daily smokers try their first cigarette before age 27. We've made grants to community colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the country to help them make their

campuses tobacco-free."

**"Smoking is not only a ... environmental issue, but it is also a social justice issue."**

- Kimberly Robeson

The work group at Valley responsible for securing the grant includes William Wallis, Israel Ortiz, David Green, Douglas Marriott, Elizabeth Negrete, Annie Reed, Sarah Song and Jamie Holladay-Collins. The team created smoke and tobacco-free guidelines that are being reviewed by the Institutional Effectiveness Committee; the guidelines will then be handed off to the interim president Denise Noldon. These

guidelines will turn Valley into a smoke and tobacco-free campus, including vaping and marijuana cigarette use.

"Smoking is not only a health and environmental issue, but it is also a social justice issue," said Holladay-Collins, an administrative secretary of Academic Affairs. "According to recent studies, 72 percent of smokers are from lower-income communities. Disadvantaged populations such as African-Americans and Latinos have been historically targeted in their own neighborhoods. As an educational institution, it is important that we set a positive example for the next generation of leaders who are present on this campus today."

Eddie Kaufman-Morrow and Annie Moskofian are two student ambassadors who are working collaboratively with the ASU to represent the grant and help plan campus events to spread awareness. The two trav-

eled to Washington, D.C., during spring break to receive training from the Truth Initiative.

"We came back with a couple ideas," said Kaufman-Morrow. "We did a pizza party to find a small group of students who support the cause, a Cig Butt Clean-Up which helped us win our case, and we are going to have a small exhibit in the fall semester for an Art Showcase ... We hope to help create more events to help students become educated in their health, mental health and the plan of 'Big Tobacco.'"

Prior to the ambassadors' events, awareness about the non-smoking rule typically appeared in the form of small signs around campus. Valley's work group on this initiative hopes that they can encourage and promote a healthy campus that is free of smoke and tobacco through a social construct model. To stay up to date on events, follow @LAVCHHealthyCampus on Instagram.

## 'Star Wars' fan wrote for a galaxy far, far away

Decades after the original release, one fan wrote for the space saga he grew up loving.

MICKIE SHAW  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The 42-year-old "Star Wars" saga, which started with the blockbuster 1977 release of "A New Hope" and will continue with the latest installment "The Rise of Skywalker" due out in December, has inspired fans to pursue careers in the film industry, including Oscar-nominated screenplay writer Chris Weitz.

Weitz is a film producer, a successful author, an occasional actor, director, activist, and screenplay writer for the second biggest movie franchise in Hollywood. He co-wrote the film "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," taking over the reins after the film's first writer, Gary Whitta, exited the project.

**How were you approached by Lucasfilm to write "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story?"**

I got a call from my agent. I always wanted to write a "Star Wars" film; I basically tried to not fanboy out too heavily. I think that they absolutely wanted somebody who sort of knew their stuff in terms of familiarity with the films ... and not lose their mind about the pressure of

writing a "Star Wars" movie.

**Are there writing boundaries when working on an established story and universe?**

Yes, I think there is. You always need the canonical stuff and having to know where the story is going. But, I was surprised about how much freedom there was within that construct. The key is to tell a good story and to have characters people feel involved with.

**Did you feel pressure taking on something that is so beloved and has such devoted fans?**

Yes, absolutely. I mean, I am a fan too. I absolutely didn't want to get it wrong. There are the expectations of the fans.

**The movie was based on an original story by Lucasfilm ILM executive John Knoll; how much of his story made it into the final script?**

The key elements were, and that it was going to be a team effort. Originally, the movie was a lot more focused on [lead characters] Jyn and Cassian. I am kind of responsible for fleshing out the scenes. Chirrut and Baze are my guys. Bodie Rook was kind of on my watch. I was kind of able to add the charac-

ter, which was great, and sort of change the feel of the movie from one of just a coming-of-age story to more of a heist film and a change story.

**The scene where Jyn and her father are reunited at the moment of his death was powerful. The father/daughter relationship, is that your creation?**

The idea that Jyn's father was the designer of the Death Star was already there. Originally, her mother was a Jedi. So, her mother was more of a hero. I recall in Gary's last draft, Jyn was quite preoccupied with revenge, and the question was whether she was going to go over to the dark side by committing murder out of her own sense of desire for revenge. I think during my tenure it turns a bit more into the question of whether Jyn was going to complete the relationship with her father and whether there was going to be redemption.

**Why were there no Jedi?**

We decided to have no Jedi whatsoever in this story. So, it's a story about people without any supernatural validation to what they are doing, struggling against an impossible to defeat power.

So, although Chirrut Imwe does do these pretty extraordinary things, he is not a Jedi.

**Is there a religious belief in the Force by non-Force users?**

Yes, absolutely. The idea also was that not everybody that believes in the Force believes in exactly the same way. In the same way that there are all these different Abrahamic religions, there's Judaism, and Christianity and Islam, and they share some things in common, there are also differences, different beliefs.

**Who is your favorite character from the original "Star Wars" movies?**

Luke Skywalker. I was this 7-year-old kid [when I first saw "Star Wars"]. He's the guy I really identified with. Luke Skywalker was my guy. He was the example of being good. I still feel that way.

Weitz directed Operation Finale (2018) and in Feb. his production company, Depth of Field, sign a two year first look deal with Paramount Television for TV and Digital series.

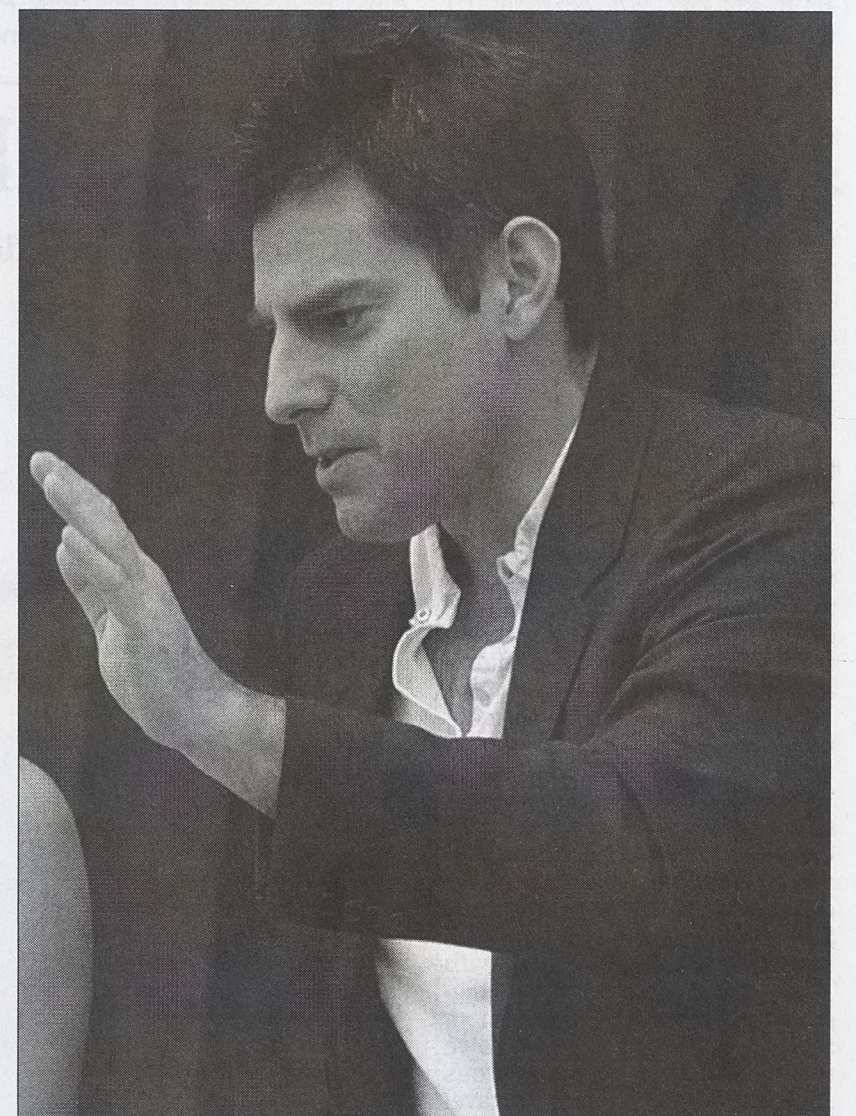


PHOTO COURTESY OF | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS  
WRITER- "Rogue One" was co-written by Chris Weitz.



Media arts students show off their shorts

The Media Arts Department brings a semester of student pictures and films to the screen for spectators to watch and enjoy.

AIMEE MARTINEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Photography, radio broadcasting, and cinematography projects were among the types of student projects screened for audiences at the May 18 Media Arts Spring Showcase — a tradition continued for more than 20 years.

As spectators found their seats, photos from Photography 101 were projected on a screen. Music played softly over a chattering crowd with their cream-colored programs in hand. The hour and thirty minute showcase entertained an audience of students, friends, family, and faculty.

The Recital Hall was filled leaving few empty seats for late-comers. The 40 films, each about one to one and a half minutes long, presented the works of students from Media Arts 101 and Cinema 101. Class promos with behind-the-scenes footage and student samples from Cinema and Media Arts 115, radio, and TV broadcasting were shown as well. Throughout the semester, the students' films progressed from concept to script to screen with the use of storyboards and blueprints.

"It was very free-flowing," said Mark Hadley, director of

"This is 2018," on the filmmaking process. "You have an idea of where they are going, then when you do it, it doesn't quite go that way."

Hadley further characterized the process as chaotic and entertaining. Jason Tate, director of "Forever" described the process as a great experience and said he was excited to see the work he had so much pride in being shown. Tate and other student directors commented that the screening gives the filmmakers a platform to present the ideas they worked hard to develop.

"From showing [the films] [The films] were made with the intent for an audience."

- Eric Swelstad

in class, [the screening] takes it from a critical point of view to is it entertaining," said Bryan Higashida, director of "Toys."

The student films spanned a variety of stories, from suspense with creepy clowns and bloody bats to art thieves and draining fish bowls. There were also quirky comedies that made the audience chuckle at relat-

able themes like procrastination. Some captured the crowd with eerie scenes that left the audience on the edge of their seats and gasping at shocking moments. A few failed to elicit laughter with some jokes falling flat. Although there were respectful claps that followed each film, it was apparent which ones the audience favored due to the louder applause.

Interim President Denise Noldon, Dean of Academic Affairs Laurie Nalepa and other members of the Valley administration were present to show their support and pride for the students. Nalepa remarked that she has enjoyed each year's screening so much, she invited her niece this time to watch it.

"Someday, I'm hoping one of our students will win an Academy Award and thank one of our professors," said Nalepa.

The night ended with a trailer for the more advanced films from Cinema 125 set to premiere in the next screening Oct. 19. Eric Swelstad, the Media Arts Department Chair, commented on the importance of the screening.

"[The films] were made with the intent for an audience," said Swelstad. "They get a chance to see the audience reaction. It's what all filmmakers strive for."



SCREENING- A faculty member speaks to attendees about the student films. VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW



WICK- "Parabellum" grossed \$57 million domestically during its opening weekend. PHOTO COURTESY OF | LIONSGATE

Bloody good business

"Parabellum" is the best in the series with great action and blood.

GABRIEL ARIZON  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Keanu Reeves makes a bloody, bullet-ridden return in his third outing as John Wick, amping up the stylized action and violence to a delightful degree. "John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum" takes what worked in the previous two films, adds more visceral combat, explores more of Wick's past and delivers the best of the trilogy.

"Parabellum" takes place immediately after "John Wick: Chapter 2." Wick has now become a marked man with a \$14 million bounty on his head after murdering a high-ranking crime boss in the Continental, an assassin-serving hotel that strictly forbids killing on its grounds. Now, chased by every assassin in New York, he shoots and stabs his way through them while trying to survive.

One of the main themes of the film is consequences, as Wick's destructive actions are catching up with him. He is barred from receiving any help, and those that do or have helped him before are faced with harsh

punishments of their own. The film does a good job of showing Wick at the end of his rope.

Those that loved the gun battles, hand-to-hand combat and slick camera work in the first two movies will be pleased that those elements are still being well executed. The violence is just as bloody, and each strike delivered feels more impactful than in previous entries. The gun-fu on display is as precise as ever, and the longer martial arts sequences demonstrate even more of Wick's deadly skills.

Though her time in the film is relatively short, Halle Berry's role as a fellow assassin is certainly memorable. Her set piece, where she takes down dozens of goons alongside Wick and her two trained German Shepherds, is one of the best in the movie. Seeing her highly coordinated canine companions viciously tackle and chomp through thugs while she blasts through everyone else is a ton of fun.

Ian McShane and Laurence Fishburne return and are just as good as before. The assassin known as Zero (Mark Dacascos) adds a nice blend of humor into the mix as he and his ninja-like thugs present an even greater

threat to Wick. Additional performances by Lance Reddick, Anjelica Huston and Asia Kate Dillon help to flesh out the criminal underworld and Wick's past.

While the pacing of the movie is solid throughout, there are a few odd character choices here and there. There is one particular moment halfway through the movie where Wick makes a decision that does not feel like one that his character would make. It feels a bit jarring, considering what we know of him.

Anyone who enjoyed the last two movies in the franchise will certainly be satisfied with this third chapter. The action is exactly the way fans want it, just better. If you are a fan of over-the-top action and some blood, then "Parabellum" is a no-brainer.

VALLEY'S STARS

★★★★★

Rated R

Worth the Money

Now Playing

A spark of nostalgic fun

"Detective Pikachu" sets standard for all video game movies.

ALANA AIMAQ  
STAFF WRITER

Based on the spin-off of the 90's Japanese video game that took the world by storm, "Pokemon: Detective Pikachu" is the nostalgic live-action adaptation Pokemon fans have been waiting for. Its silly, wholesome script built on the beloved realm brings us one of the best family-friendly comedies of the year.

Directed by Rob Letterman, the movie follows Tim Goodman (Justice Smith) and Pikachu (Ryan Reynolds) on the quest to find Tim's missing father, Harry Goodman, who disappeared after a mysterious car crash occurred. Tim then meets Lucy Stevens (Kathryn Newton), a reporter that smells a story with Tim's father that might be bigger than they both imagined. She and Tim attempt to solve the case, along with her nervous sidekick Psyduck, and unravel what could be the biggest mystery to ever catch 'em all.

Their journey begins in

the town of Ryme City, where Pokemon and humans live together in harmony. As we meet classic characters along the way including Bulbasaur, Magikarp, Charizard and the cute but deadly Ditto, we are immersed in a world that seems so real, we might as well be in the video game itself. Surprisingly enough, the animated Pokemon look just as lifelike, despite the talking Pikachu that threw everyone off in the trailer. The action-packed film lays out some intense battle scenes in true Pokemon fashion that lead us through a thrilling ride of laughs and tears.

Tim and Pikachu, on the other hand, have their own hurdles to jump over as the comedic duo tries getting along for the greater good. Smith's portrayal of an unmotivated, nervous orphan pairs well with Reynold's hyperactive Pokimon performance. Caffeinated and committed to solving the case, Pikachu must constantly convince Tim to let him aid in the search for his father.

Smith's and Reynold's

on-screen chemistry gives the movie an unexpected comedic side that actually fit quite well for a movie based on magical creatures. The two get caught in an action-packed mess that ultimately leads them to find corruption too close to home, leaving the audience in shock at its unexpected ending.

This sentimental movie lays the groundwork for what a video game movie should really look like. With its cute comedic style and unpredictable twists, "Detective Pikachu" really proved naysayers wrong and captured the franchise well. I definitely recommend everyone to see this movie.

VALLEY'S STARS

★★★★★

Rated PG

Must Watch

Now Playing



POKEMON- "Detective Pikachu" is Nintendo's first live-action movie since 1993's "Super Mario Bros." PHOTO COURTESY OF | WARNER BROS.

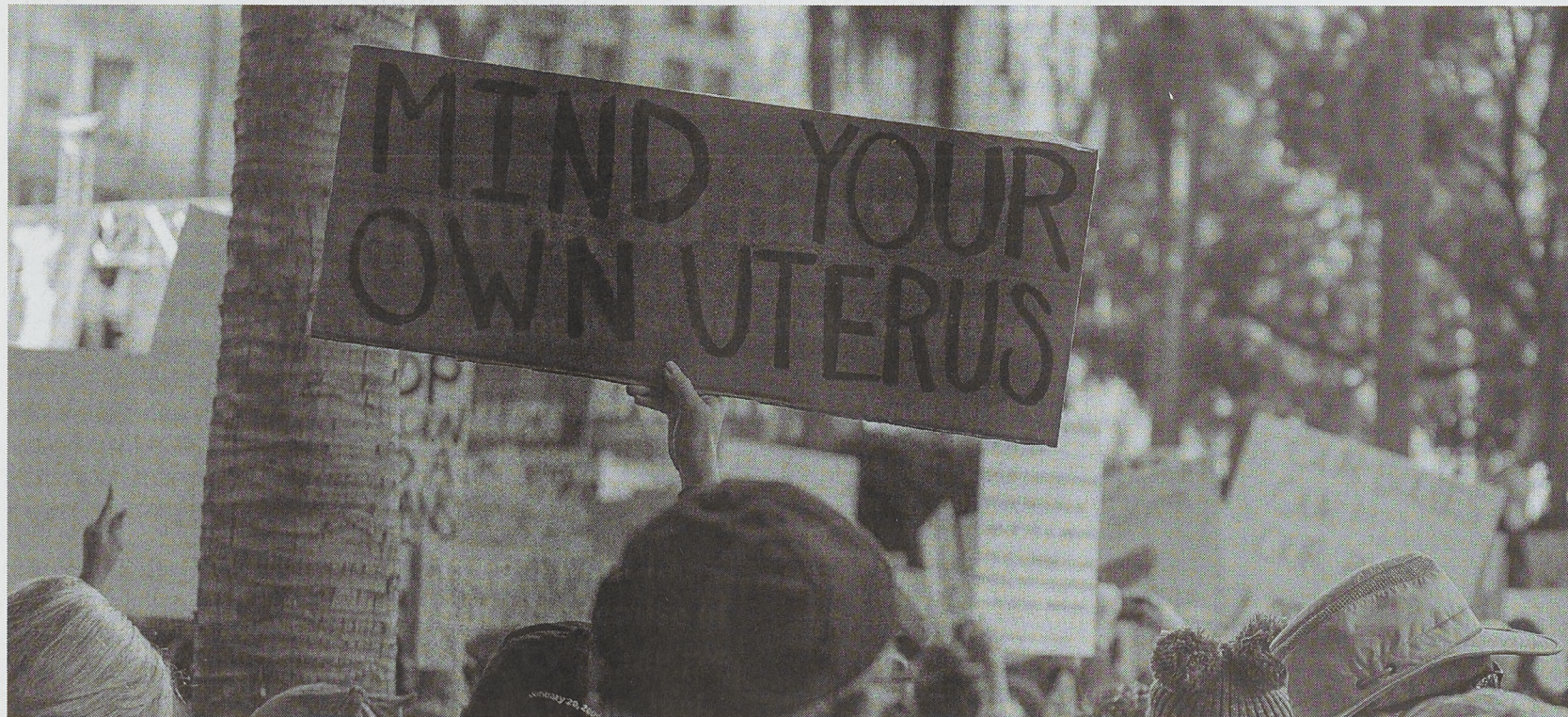


# OPINION

5

## Heartbeat bills prove to be heartless

Republicans don't care about children – they just want to control women.



PROTEST- Protester holds up sign at the Women's March in Los Angeles.

TATE COAN  
ONLINE EDITOR

In an effort to overturn Roe v. Wade, lawmakers have introduced heartbeat bills in a number of states, limiting a woman's right to control her own body.

Heartbeat bills or abortion restrictions have been passed in Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi and Alabama being the most strict with no exception in the case of incest or rape. These bills prevent women from legally getting an abortion after a heartbeat is detected from the embryo. Heartbeats are typically detected after five weeks of pregnancy, according to the American Pregnancy Association. This is about two weeks after a missed period, before many women know they are pregnant. These lawmakers are essentially stating that life starts when a heartbeat is first

detected.

They want embryos to be considered living people with as many rights as any other person, while completely ignoring the ridiculousness of such claims. If we go off the assumption that an embryo with a heartbeat is entitled to the same rights as any other child or person, then an abortion would still be considered legal for a multitude of reasons.

First off, when a woman is pregnant, the embryo or fetus, cannot survive without her. The fetus' lungs are not fully formed until about 36 weeks, according to the American Pregnancy Association, meaning it cannot even breathe properly until the third trimester. Essentially, the woman is serving as life support. If we are treating an embryo or fetus as any other living child, then it is still up to the parent to decide whether or not to continue using a method of life sup-

port to keep the child or embryo "alive."

A common argument by anti-abortionists is "if life ends when your heart stops beating, then why doesn't life begin when it starts beating?" Fun fact about the U.S. legal system: a person is not legally considered dead until their breathing and heartbeat has stopped or they are brain dead, according to the Uniform Determination of Death Act. A fetus does not start to develop their lungs until about 26 weeks after conception, according to the American Pregnancy Association. Before that they do not even have the ability to breathe, so they can't legally be a living person.

While not taking rape into account, many people might argue that consent to sex is consent to pregnancy – it's not. Just like consent to smoking is not consent to lung cancer. If a fetus or embryo is considered to be

a person with legal rights, that does not expunge the rights of the pregnant woman. If one person was taking blood, food from inside of the body, and money from another person without consent, that would be considered to be a violent assault as well as theft.

Congratulations conservatives, you just made all embryos technically criminals, which is completely absurd and borderline comical. That's because considering embryos to be human beings with legal rights is absurd and comical.

While you cannot deny that an embryo is made up of living cells they are no more living than an appendix. No one is trying to make appendix removal illegal. The only difference is that embryos can only exist inside the female body which makes male politicians think they have the right to police them.

## Conservatives declare war on women's wombs

Newly passed abortion laws in Alabama and Georgia restrict women from making their own choice.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS  
OPINION EDITOR

Abortion laws passed in Alabama and Georgia have caused outrage in women and pro-life supporters around the country.

Signed by Republican Gov. Kay Ivey, Alabama now has the strictest abortion laws, with almost all abortion banned including in cases of rape and incest. Doctors found guilty of performing an abortion could face 99 years in jail. This bill has launched women everywhere, including celebrities, to speak out about abortions they have had to raise awareness and normalize the idea.

"I had an abortion when I was 15 years old," said actress and night show host, Busy Philipps, on her show, *Busy Tonight*. "I'm telling you this because I'm genuinely really scared for women and girls all over the country." After sharing her story, Philipps encouraged other women to share their experiences with abortion by using the hashtag #youknowme.

Other popular celebrities including Nicki Minaj, Whoopi Goldberg, Chelsea Handler, and Jameela Jamil have all spoken out about their own stories of why they decided to have abortions themselves.

The stories that have been shared show bravery, courage, fear and humility. The women talking about the topic of abortion are not only sharing their own accounts, but ones from underage neighbors, friends and siblings that could not get their own form of emergency contraception or birth control. Taking away the right for women to

make their own decisions about their body is beyond alarming and the women and advocates speaking out against this bill are to be commended.

The only exceptions to this new law would be "to avoid a serious health risk to the unborn child's mother," for ectopic pregnancy and if the "unborn child has a lethal anomaly" which means "the absence of the brain and cranium above the base of the skull, leading to death before or shortly after birth." This bill passed 25-6 in the Alabama Senate and a motion to make an exception for rape and incest failed 11-21.

With Georgia being the latest to sign what is known as the "heartbeat bill," Missouri, Mississippi, Kentucky, Arkansas and Ohio all passed similar bill in March and April. These are bills which put a ban on any abortions where a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

According to [americanpregnancy.org](http://americanpregnancy.org), heartbeats are able to be detected as early as five and a half to seven weeks, which could be even before a woman even knows she is pregnant.

"We vowed to fight this dangerous abortion ban every step of the way and we meant what we said," said Staci Fox, president and CEO at Planned Parenthood Southeast in a statement. "We haven't lost a case in Alabama yet and we don't plan to start now. We will see Governor Ivey in court. In the meantime, abortion is still safe, legal, and available in the state of Alabama and we plan to keep it that way."

## Channel surfing all the way to Netflix as commercials clog cable

Commercials seem to be getting worse and make watching cable television unenjoyable.

MEG TAYLOR  
NEWS EDITOR

Commercials are supposed to be an entertaining source of advertising; however, the majority of commercials make viewers want to change the channel or turn the television off entirely.

It is almost impossible to escape the abundance of medical commercials on cable that are filled with long lists of unappealing side effects. Most people turn to television to be entertained, not to listen to advertisements including the words erectile dysfunction, diarrhea, heart attack and death in their message. The majority of people who are viewing these commer-

cials do not even take the medications being advertised or have the illness it treats.

**"People want to paint the demise of cable TV as the result of cost or lack of access, but this is younger demo is saying, 'The stuff on television isn't relevant to me.'"**

- Andy Tu

"People want to paint the demise of cable TV as the result of cost or lack of access," Defy Media Executive Vice President of Marketing Andy Tu told Variety. "But this younger demo is saying, 'The stuff on television isn't relevant to me.'"

This point was proved in a 2016 study from Defy that found 85 percent of their Millennial respondents regularly watch YouTube. A 2018 Forbes article cited a study from the McCarthy Group that further proved this point by stating that millennials are not viewing or even listening to digital advertising on television.

According to the Forbes article, "84% of millennials stated that they did not like tradition-

al marketing and, what's more, they didn't trust it. And they really are not viewing or listening to it either. They don't watch traditional TV, preferring instead live streaming, video-on-demand on such platforms as Netflix and Anime. And YouTube is actually the most-viewed platform for video."

Millennials, however, are not the only generation who dislike the commercials aired on television. Older people not only dislike the content of the commercials, they dislike how their age group is portrayed in digital advertising.

A study conducted by GlynnDevins, a company that specializes in marketing to older age groups, found, "Overall, the

seniors surveyed gave very low marks to the way ads portray people in their age group, with 60% saying ads targeting seniors are dominated by stereotypes."

The problem with commercials falls back onto advertisers. In an effort to bring viewers back to cable and encourage others not to leave cable for streaming sites, advertisers should produce more relatable content and place more of a focus on entertainment. For medication commercials, maybe implement humor instead of placing a focus on the discomfort of the side effects. Also, basing the commercial around a big family gives all viewers a person to connect to in the advertisement. Some can argue that there

are products that cannot be made entertaining because the subject of the commercial itself is not all that exciting. A simple fix for this problem is to create a catchy jingle or slogan. A prime example is the Barnes Firm Attorneys commercial. I cannot help but sing along when their jingle appears on the TV.

"Cellino and Barnes, injury attorneys, call 1(800)888-8888. Don't wait, call 8!"

Just by adding one small factor, like a catchphrase or music, automatically intrigues viewers and makes them pay attention to the screen instead of turning away from it.

## VALLEY VIEW | WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON SMOKING BEING PROHIBITED ON CAMPUS?

TEXT BY ALANA AIMAQ AND TATE COAN |  
PHOTOS BY ALANA AIMAQ



"I think there should be an area where smoking should be allowed. I don't smoke so I don't really mind."  
-TIANA BARRAZA



"I don't think smoking should be allowed in the common areas of campus."  
-MICHAEL MARTINEZ



"They're probably gonna just go off campus and smoke, so I see no need to get rid of the smoking area."  
-CARLOS RIVERA



"It gives them a break from smoking all the time."  
-TATIANA LYONNAIS



"It depends on how heavily it would be enforced."  
-SKY NA

## EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.



# OPINION

## Don't cross out tradition with an 'X'

In an attempt to be inclusive the promoters of Latinx have only included themselves.

MICKIE SHAW  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The term Latinx, (pronounced La-tee-nex) the gender neutral term to describe people of Latin American origin or ancestry, has become popular with young Latinos on American college campuses and in academia to describe themselves. Now the promoters of the term want all Latinos here and in the rest of the Spanish speaking world to use the word. In an attempt to be inclusive, they are actually excluding rather than including women.

Latinx is meant to include people who are trans, queer, a-gender, non binary, gender non-conforming or gender fluid. The word first appeared in online queer communities' conversations in the United States. Not feeling included with the terms Latino or Latina, the masculine and feminine forms of the word Latin, the word Latinx was created.

As a gendered person, I don't feel included in the word Latinx. I am Latina. If people or communities want to call themselves Latinx that is great, but don't use it as an umbrella term to describe all Latinos. They do not speak for me just as I do not speak for them. I also do not feel comfortable with the addition of

"x"; the letter means unknown in math; I am somebody, and I have an identity, plus Latinx just sounds terrible as Spanish.

In an attempt to make Spanish non gendered, Latinx proponents even want to add "x" to all gendered words in Spanish. Spanish, a romance language, is gendered by default. Its nouns are either masculine, often ending in "o" but not all the time, or feminine which often ends in an "a". Words ending in "e" mean both genders, and some words use the feminine "a" or "o" for both male and female.

Some examples of Spanish nouns ending in "e" are: gente, clase, llave - which translates to: people, class, key.

The grammar and structure of Spanish would have to be reimagined to make it gender neutral, and why use an anglicized word when there are Spanish words that are neutral? The term Latin is gender neutral and so is the word Hispanic, although Hispanic refers specifically to Spanish speakers in Latin America or of that heritage.

Valley College Spanish professor Maria E. Frances-Banitez, a self described feminist and a Cuban immigrant said, "If they are using Spanish, I think the 'e' word would be good. That is both gender, all gender - for example; estudiante [student]. Latine is actually using the

Spanish structure."

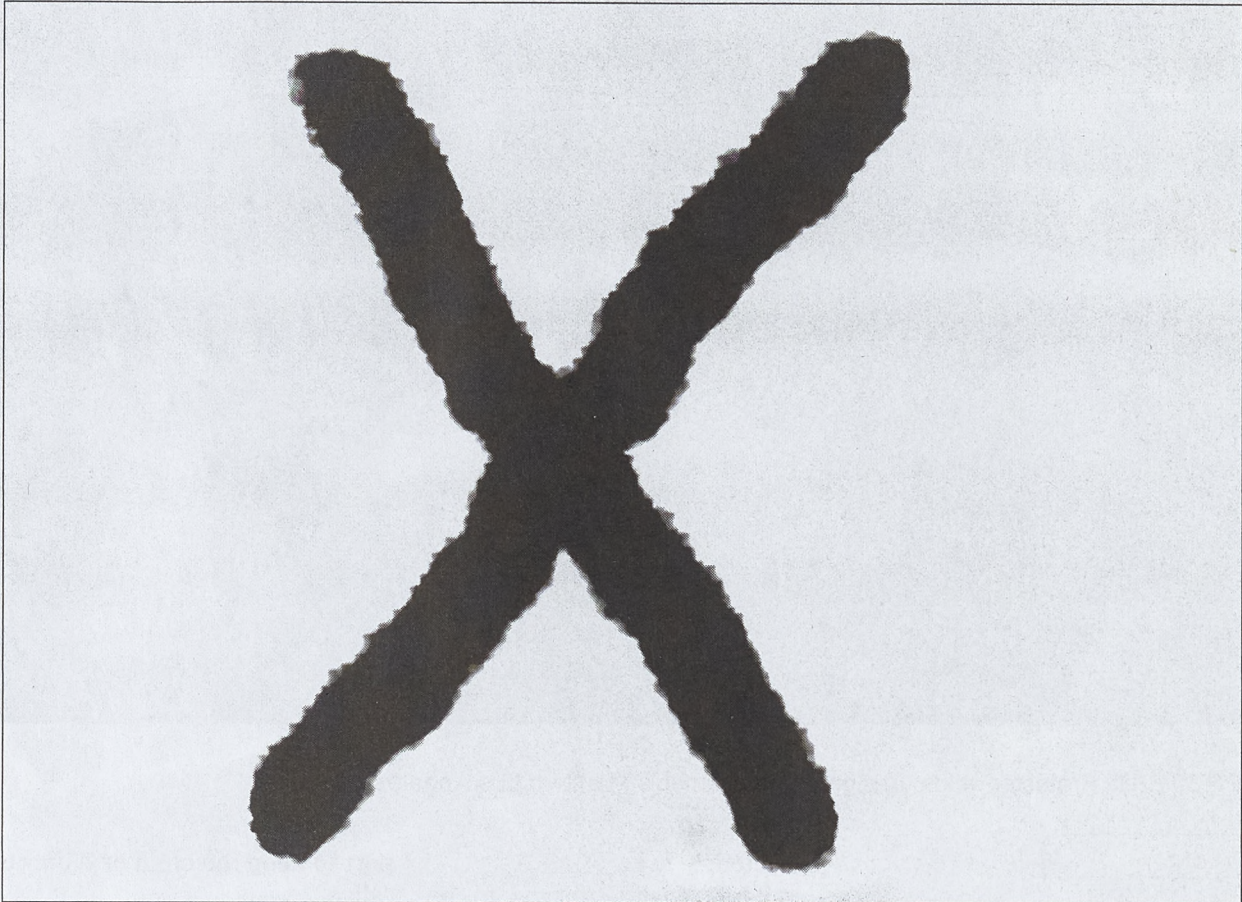
This is what a gender neutral sentence in Spanish would look like: "Lxs nicks fueron a lx escuela a ver sus amigxs." It's a mind bender to be sure and for native Spanish speakers without some familiarity with English - nearly unpronounceable because the x could not be pronounce the same as in English.

"We have issues in society we have not dealt with, and we worry about whether I am going to call myself Latinx or Latina," said Frances-Banitez. "We need to really worry about getting everybody included ... we all have to be recognized rather than be erased by a word that doesn't recognize you."

The use of Latinx has created hostility from Spanish speakers throughout Latin American and the United States. Two pro-Latinx videos, on Fusion and mitu, were met with an avalanche of negative responses. Comments included: "supidx", "Fake latins", "ridiculous" and "butchering the Spanish language."

Rudy Corado, a transgender activist, who calls herself Latina, said in an interview with the Washington Post, "I grew up fighting for my gender to be recognized as Latina." Corado, who was born in El Salvador, now lives in Washington, D.C.

The term Latinx is an imposition by a small group of mostly American Hispanic activists and



VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW

X- Latinx, the gender neutral term for Latinos was coined to include the LGBTQ community.

academics demanding all of the Spanish speaking world change the very nature of our language and how we identify ourselves. It is American linguistic imperialism.

As a proud Latina, who has marched and protested for women's rights, and worked in the male-dominated profession of television for decades - often I am the only woman on a crew

and the only minority - I have an identity and a gender. Do not force a gender-neutral identity on me. I will not be erased with an X.

## Marriage of Fashion and Culture: The Met Gala

This year's "Camp: Notes on Fashion" theme delivered a bout of fantastic, over-the-top red carpet moments.

MEG TAYLOR  
NEWS EDITOR

Colloquially known as "fashion's biggest night of the year," the 2019 Met Gala was filled with neon, feathers, bows and theatrical entrances.

The gala is a fundraiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. The black-tie extravaganza is held the first Monday in May each year to raise money for the fashion department. They do this by selling tables. Tables can cost up to an advance of \$300,000. Anna Wintour, Vogue's editor-in-chief, has been the co-chair of the event for over two decades.

"Anna's been at the helm since 1999 and she's raised over \$175 million," said E! News Fashion Correspondent Zanna Roberts Rassi. "Once you've been invited to buy a table for \$300,000, then your guests will all have to be approved by Anna and the team."

The theme for this year's ball was Camp: Notes on Fashion.

Camp is the love of the unnatural, of artifice and exaggeration. Inspired by writer Susan Sontag's 1994 essay "Notes on Camp," Wintour hinted at her own outfit for the event to CNN Style.

"There's a quote from Sontag's Notes that says, 'Camp is a woman walking around in a dress made of 3 million feathers,' so I think I might be taking inspiration from that," Wintour revealed.

The 69-year-old editor opened the event in a Chanel pink crystal-embellished column gown with a pink and purple feathered cape. She topped off her look with jeweled necklaces but notably missing were her iconic black sunglasses.

The queen of this year's met ball was none other than Lady Gaga. The popstar, whose own personal style throughout her career and music videos exemplified this year's theme, managed to change her outfit four times down the pink carpet. She started down the carpet in an extravagant, hot-pink, Brandon

Maxwell exclusive with a 25-foot train crowned with a bow to match. Accompanied by a slew of male dancers, Gaga strode back and forth, performing rather than appearing on the carpet.

As she made her way back to the bottom of the pink carpet, Gaga removed the bow from her head while dancers, assisted by Maxwell, unsnapped and unzipped her dress revealing a black off-the-shoulder gown. After her "Singing in the Rain" inspired poses, Gaga returned to the front of the carpet. Maxwell removed yet another layer to reveal a figure-hugging hot pink dress. Gaga paired the look with jewel encrusted sunglasses and a brick-sized 90s cell phone.

The final quick change left Gaga in a glittery black bra, underwear, fishnets and 10-inch black boots resembling her iconic look from her "Paparazzi" days. She pulled around a hot pink "House of Gaga" wagon filled with Brandon Maxwell's branded rosé.

Billy Porter served up another dramatic entrance. The "Pose"

star was carried into the event on a litter by six shirtless men. Giving a nod to Ancient Egypt, Porter wore a bejeweled catsuit by The Blonds, outfitted with 10-foot wings, a 24-karat gold headpiece, and a custom pair of gold-leaf Giuseppe Zanotti shoes coupled with fine jewels by Andreoli and Oscar Heyman.

Hailey Bieber wore one of the more controversial looks of the night. The 22-year-old donned a custom pink sequined Alexander Wang gown with a crystal nameplate thong. The model also sported a high ponytail with a black bow. Bieber looked absolutely stunning, and although some may find a thong to be an odd choice, it was incredibly fitting of the theme.

The Met Ball is about self-expression, individuality and making fashion choices that are fun and outrageous. This year's event exceeded all expectations and housed moments that will be embedded in Met Gala history.



FLICKR | POPUGAR

BILLY- Billy Porter walked into the Met wearing a bejeweled catsuit.

## The United States gets it wrong with Real ID

The Real ID requires personal information that could fall into the hands of hackers.

MICKIE SHAW  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

If you are planning on flying anywhere in the United States after Oct. 1, 2020, you will be required to bring federally approved identification to board the plane.

Having bought and paid for a plane ticket will not be a pretext to board your flight. One federally approved identification will be a state-issued Real ID driver's license or identification card. You will still be able to acquire standard IDs, but they will not

allow you to board a plane. In the post 9/11 world the Real ID is effectively a federal ID used as an internal passport.

The Real ID act was passed in 2005 too, "improve security for drivers' licenses and personal identification cards." It was recommend in the 9/11 Commission Report. The idea was to prevent terrorists from boarding airliners. Because of right to privacy groups' lawsuits and objections from states, the act was delayed from being implemented. It is now being enforced and states must comply with the act's requirements by Oct. 2020.

In 2018, 778 million travelers flew domestically. How many of these travelers will be left in the airport lobby if they fail to bring the proper ID?

The federal government will now have a way to track travelers to and from their destinations and restrict residents and citizens movements with this new ID. If you don't have your "papers" you will not travel to your vacation destination on a commercial airline. What will be next for federal travel approval: trains, buses, freeways, or checkpoints at state borderlines to demand a Real ID be present-

ed? Will we eventually need the federal government's permission to move from state to state?

You can also toss your personal privacy aside. The Real IDs will allow the federal government to access the list of identification items used to acquire the Real ID. Considering the amount of information needed to apply for a Real ID, some people may not want just anyone accessing their birth certificate, tax return document or naturalization document. Under the act's federal requirements, states must keep copies of the

documents submitted for Real ID applications. With internet hacking - the scourge of the modern age - security for this massive amount of data as well as the personal privacy of its citizens is a concern for states.

Circumstances are very different today than they were 14 years ago in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Terrorist attacks since then have been committed by US citizens or residents. With American right wing and white nationalist terror attacks on the rise, Islamist extremist terror is in decline. A Real ID would have

done nothing to stop these killers from committing their crimes or even stopped the 9/11 hijackers because they had passports or visas.

The United States has now joined North Korea and China in implementing a national ID and restricting domestic travel. These other countries even restrict moving to a different location within their country. The war on terror has morphed the United States into a Big Brother nation where personal freedom is slowly being eroded.

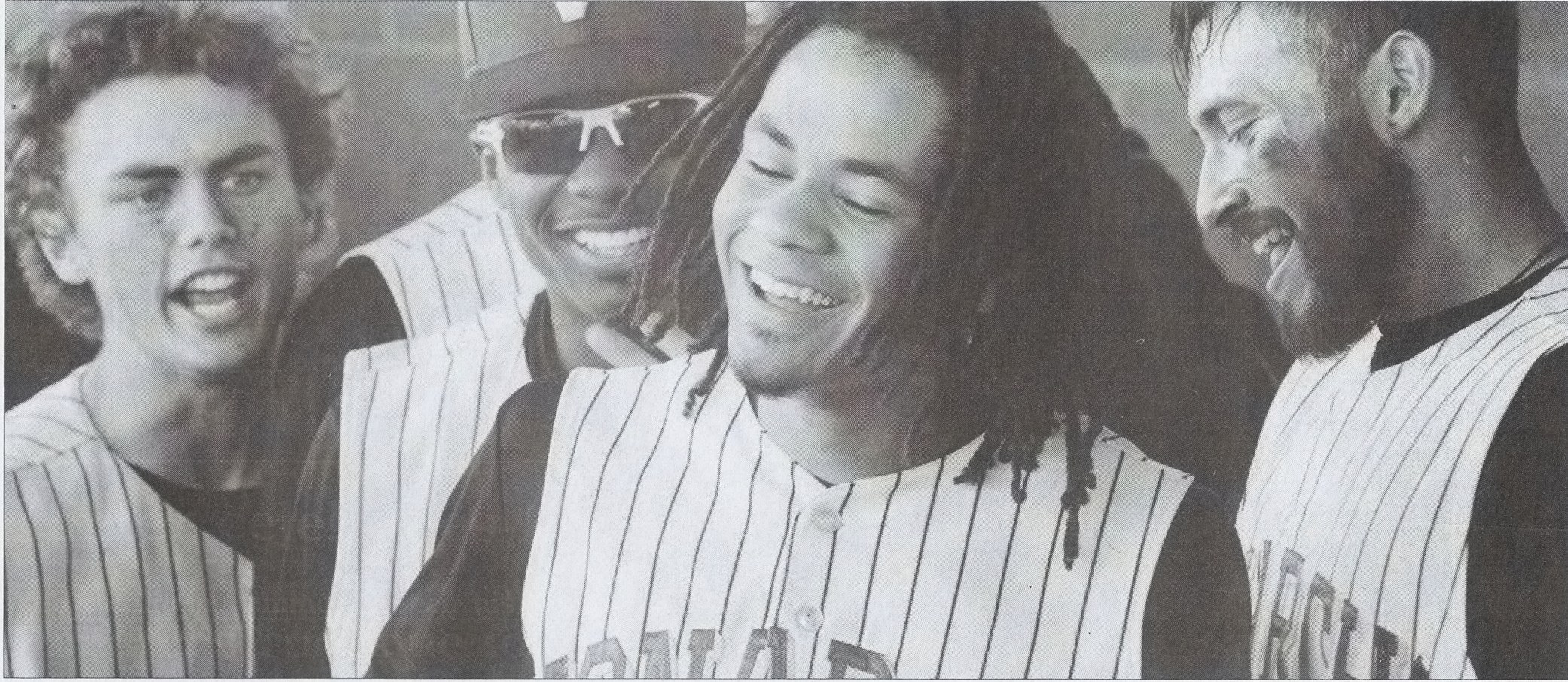


## SPORTS

7

## Monarchs continue to stick to the plan after season falls short

The baseball team finds meaning in "meaningless games" to finish the season off strong and look forward to the next.



SPECIAL TO THE STAR | DALE BECK

MONARCHS - The Monarchs remain in high spirits even after their 10-game losing streak, they hope to come back stronger next season.

JOSEPH GONZALEZ  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College baseball team's six-year playoff drought continues, but the Monarchs gave it their full effort throughout the year to finish strong.

The Monarchs finished off the year with two home games against conference rivals, Pierce and Mission Colleges, beating Pierce 3-2 and losing to Mission 9-5. Then they headed out to

West Los Angeles for their final game of the season and got the win 9-5. Although these games were technically meaningless to Valley, they still put in the hard work and ground out two wins to finish on a positive note.

"For this last week of season, I look forward to grinding hard with my teammates one last time on Monday," said sophomore pitcher, Giovanni Chaidez. "I look forward to playing hard these last three games, hopefully ending the season with three wins."

It was a long year for the team, which started off as they started off undefeated, went on a 10-game losing streak and had an away game against Irvine Valley postponed due to severe rainstorms. They continued to push through the season and hope to do so in these final three games.

"My 2019 season has taught me to always be grateful everyday," said freshman outfielder Jerry Aguilar. "Play smart and work hard everyday. Also to maintain positive attitude and

try to always succeed."

Despite the lows throughout the season, the members of the team are still in high spirits as they reach the end of the season. Playing at Valley under head coach Dave Mallas is a special thing for a player as Mallas makes it a family environment. The family atmosphere trickles down from coach to player. It makes going to the field every day fun and a great experience.

"Definitely looking forward for this last week to enjoy the last games and moments with the

boys," said Aguilar. "I'm going to miss my teammates, great times spent on the field."

The Monarchs are going to be carrying some momentum into the next season. They improved from last year by having five more wins in conference than in the previous season. Each season has been slowly improving and 2020 looks to be bright.

"Every year has been getting better," said assistant coach Ari Adut. "Next year we will be better again!"

## NBA's future looks bleak as LeBron gets old

Lebron James not making the 2019 NBA playoffs has led to a large rating decline.

DEVIN SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

The viewership of this year's postseason is lower than it has been in a while due to the LeBron effect, and it makes you wonder how the league will manage with him being on his way to retirement.

Through the first 50-plus games of the postseason, playoff telecasts are averaging 2.92

million viewers, an 18 percent decline from last year, and only one thing can be seen as the cause of this. The most popular player in the league LeBron James, failed to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2005, which is making plenty of fans lose interest.

In the 2016 NBA Finals, in which LeBron was the main attraction, there was an average of 31 million viewers. Last year, LeBron was the star of the playoffs and had the world buzzing.

This year, without his inclusion, the entire affair seems kind of dull.

This ratings skid can almost be seen as a preview of what is to come. LeBron is on the tail end of his career, and it seems like there is not a player in the league who can be seen as the definitive replacement for him as the face of the league.

The last time the playoff viewership was this low was in 1999, the playoffs after time Michael Jordan retired from

the NBA. This indicates exactly what happens when the face of the league does not make it to the playoffs. It has been 20 long years since the league has been in this position, as there has consistently been a player to dominate and be the poster boy.

LeBron is nearly 35 years old, which tells us that he does not have that many years left in the NBA. Most players retire by 38, and the ones that don't never make it much further than that. The 2020s are set to begin soon

and it is completely up in the air who will be the star of the league. There is a lot of amazing talent in the league right now such as Giannis Antetokounmpo, Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kawhi Leonard, among others, but none who have reached that next level title as the undisputed best.

Judging by the ratings decline, the NBA desperately needs someone new to claim the throne.

## Kanter celebrates Ramadan while fighting off Warriors

With conflicting timing between his religious purposes and profession, the Portland Trailblazer center is still making the most of it.

DEVIN SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

NBA player Enes Kanter is playing in the most important games of his career and doing well despite a disadvantage no one else on the court can relate to.

Kanter is the only NBA player still in the playoffs who is celebrating Ramadan, a Muslim tradition in which those observing it cannot eat or drink anything from sunrise to sunset. The tradition lasts from May 15 until June 14.

Unfortunately for Kanter, all of his games are played during his fasting period. The hardest struggle for Kanter is not being able to drink water during his timeouts or at halftime. On top of all this, his team, the Portland Trail Blazers, is currently

playing against arguably the toughest team in the league, the Golden State Warriors.

With this obstacle in his way, one would think Kanter would not be much of a factor in his games. This, however, is not the case. His level of play has not dropped. Before Ramadan began, Kanter was averaging 11.2 points per game and 10.1 rebounds per contest. After his fasting started, he has been averaging 10.9 points and 10.7 rebounds.

When asked by BuzzFeed News about how he is getting through while remaining efficient, Kanter said, "The game of basketball is mental over physical. Ramadan is all about relaxing your body and soul and also focusing on your inner world and listening to yourself to be a better person."

Kanter has celebrated

Ramadan since birth and has always struggled overcoming it.

**"I asked him, how did you fast and play at such a high level? He gave me tips on what he would eat, when he would wake up, and how much water he was drinking and other stuff."**

- Enes Kanter

When he was younger, by the end the day, when he was finally allowed to eat, all he could do was drink water. He would be so dehydrated that he would drink so much water to the point no food could fit in his stomach. The only other player in history to play as many minutes while fasting is NBA legend Hakeem Olajuwon.

Kanter recently stated publicly that he has been texting Olajuwon for tips and motivation on getting through the fast while also maintaining a high level of play.

"I asked him, How did you fast and play at such a high level? He gave me tips, what he would eat, when he would wake up, and how much water he was drinking and other stuff," Kanter said per ESPN.

He only has about eight hours to eat every day. He must

wake up at 4 a.m during the fast because he knows that meal will be the only food he gets until nighttime. He noticeably feels and looks weaker on the court during this period, but the fact that he is maintaining his same level of play is remarkable.

Kanter is playing the same amount of minutes per game that he always does and never asks to be taken out. He is quickly becoming one of the most respected players in the league due to his determination to win no matter the obstacle. He is not the only Muslim in the NBA, but he is the only one in the playoffs. Whether you like his team, Kanter is making it hard to not root for him.

## The Valley Star

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Letters to the editor can be sent to: editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.



# the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

## Shots from the Archives

As we come to an end of the 2018-19 school year, let us take a look back at some of the memorable events and photos taken by our Valley Star staff throughout the year.

*Text by  
Gabriel Arizon, Co-Editor-in-Chief*



LIZARD- Desert reptile basks in the sun on a post near a field of bush daises.

VALLEY STAR | SOLOMON SMITH



FIRE- A trash can in the Humanities Building caught on fire late in February.

VALLEY STAR | LEE VILLANUEVA



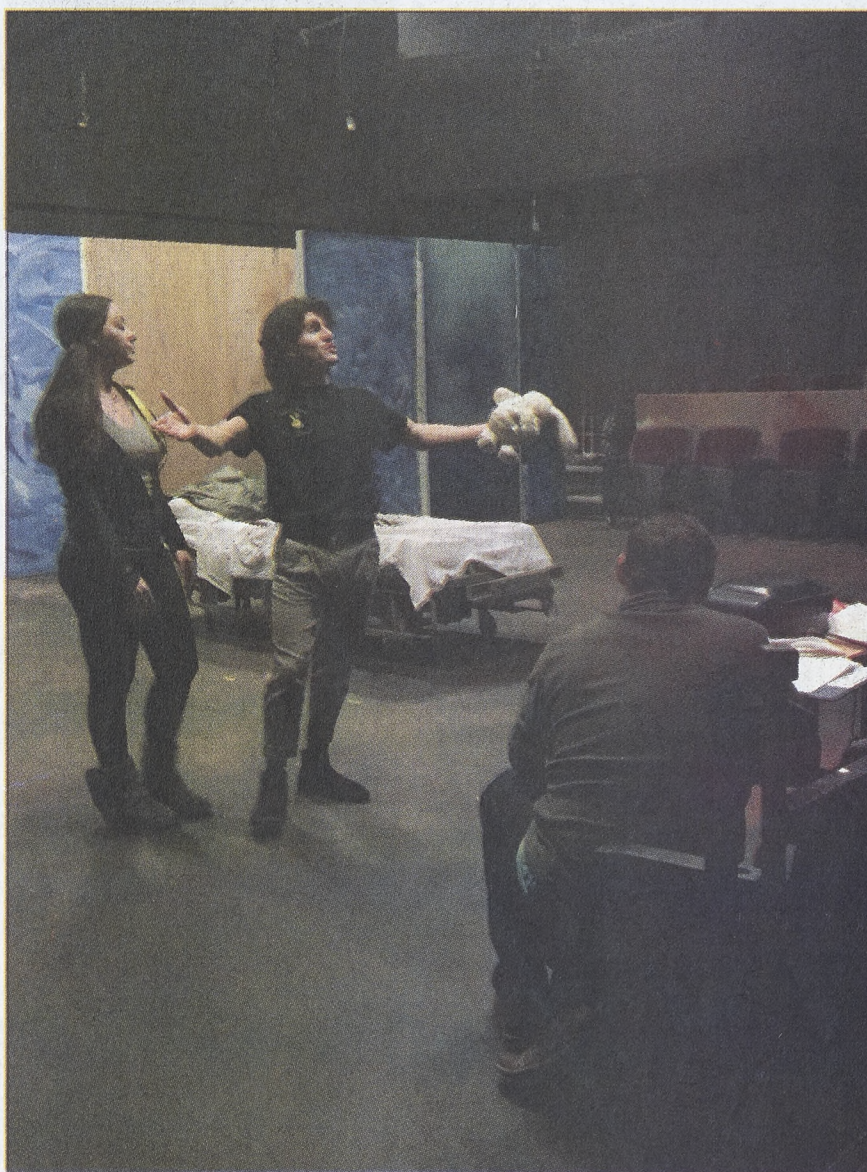
MARIACHI- The world's first LGBTQ+ mariachi band, Mariachi Arcoiris de Los Angeles, performing at Valley.

VALLEY STAR | GABRIEL ARIZON



BASEBALL- Monarch Brett Morian playing a March 5 game against West Los Angeles College.

VALLEY STAR | APET SUKIANYAN



PLAY- Valley College students rehearsing for "The Baltimore Waltz."

VALLEY STAR | GABRIEL ARIZON



REVENUE- Roberto Gúterrez hands a certificate of completion to a graduate of the Manufacturing Academy.

VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW